

WO-71
Timmons Mansion
Snow Hill (site)
Private

c. 1840

The Timmons Mansion, reasonably believed to date to the second quarter of the nineteenth century, stood out in Snow Hill as one of its most architecturally distinctive dwellings until a fire destroyed the house during the early twentieth century. Its most dynamic feature was the two-story neo-classical porch that stretched around all four sides. Creative in its execution, the porch included plain Tuscan columns on the first floor and unusually short Ionic columns on the second floor. Highlighting the space between the second floor columns were decorative sawtooth arches, similar to the arches surviving on the house known as Salem that stands at the end of Park Row. The center hall, single-pile dwelling was replaced by an early twentieth century Queen Anne style house.

The exact construction date and history of this important Snow Hill house is inexact, but architectural features clearly suggest it was built during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, probably after the devastating 1834 town fire that cleared the eastern end of Snow Hill due to the prevailing northwesterly winds.

The house is named after Captain William E. Timmons, who resided in the house between his purchase of the property in 1856 and his death in March 1902. Standing on part of land known as "Snow Hill Confirmation" the lot, extending from Market Street to the river, transferred for \$4,100 in 1856 when Captain Timmons purchased the property. William E. Timmons served as Clerk of the Worcester Court Circuit Court during the 1860s. He is listed in the 1860 U. S. Census at

age 40 with his wife Harriet, and 19-year old son, Sydney. Ten years later William E. Timmons is designated on the 1870 census as a "waterman" with a personal estate valued at \$11,000. He evidently owned a large schooner or trading vessel, hence the designation of "Captain." After his second wife, Martha's death in July 1902, the town property was sold by her heirs to Samuel M. Zacharias of Philadelphia who only owned the house one year. He transferred the house to Charles L. Shockley in January 1904.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: TIMMONS MANSION

MHT Inventory Number: W0-71

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
INDUSTRIAL/AGRARIAN TRANSITION
1815-1870
- 4) Resource Type(s):
SITE

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-71
Magi No.
DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic TIMMONS MANSION

and/or common

2. Location

street & number North side of East Market Street ___ not for publication

city, town Snow Hill ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name State of Maryland

street & number East Market Street telephone no.:

city, town Snow Hill state and zip code MD 21863

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber WCL 1236

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 27

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WO-71

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☒ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The old Timmons Mansion formerly stood on the north side of East Market Street in the center of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story, five-bay frame house faced southeast with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Estimated to have been erected during the second quarter of the nineteenth century after the devastating 1834 Snow Hill fire, the Timmons Mansion, as it is commonly called, stood on its East Market Street site until the early twentieth century when another fire destroyed the dwelling. Supported on a low brick foundation, the two-story center hall, single-pile dwelling was encircled by a two-story neo-classical porch that stretched around the entire structure.

The southeast (main) elevation was basically a symmetrical facade with a center sidelighted entrance and flanking sash windows hung with louvered shutters. A slightly uneven fenestration on the east end suggests the possibility that the main block was erected in two stages but an exact building history is impossible without the structural evidence. The second floor fenestration followed along the same pattern with a center entrance and flanking sash windows. The highly unusual two-story porch was supported by Tuscan columns on the first floor and by short Ionic columns on the second floor. Highlighting the space between the pairs of second floor columns were decorative saw-tooth arches similar to that still found on the house known as Salem or the Burroughs house, see WO-111. A railing stretched between the pairs of second floor columns as well.

The gable ends were sheltered by the two-story porch also. Rising against the gable end and through the porch roofs were exterior end brick chimneys finished with corbelled caps. Sash windows, lighting the first and second floors, flanked the chimney as well as small attic windows. The flush gable ends were finished with a plain bargeboard.

Stretching around to the north side, the porch sheltered at least part of the back side.

No interior description exists for the dwelling.

8. Significance

Survey No. W0-71

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Timmons Mansion, reasonably believed to date to the second quarter of the nineteenth century, stood out in Snow Hill as one of its most architecturally distinctive dwellings until a fire destroyed the house during the early twentieth century. Its most dynamic feature was the two-story neo-classical porch that stretched around all four sides. Creative in its execution, the porch included plain Tuscan columns on the first floor and unusually short Ionic columns on the second floor. Highlighting the space between the second floor columns were decorative sawtooth arches, similar to the arches surviving on the house known as Salem that stands at the end of Park Row. The center hall, single-pile dwelling was replaced by an early twentieth century Queen Anne style house.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-71

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Diagram A shows three empty coordinate axes. The first axis is labeled 'Zone' and has two tick marks. The second axis is labeled 'Easting' and has four tick marks. The third axis is labeled 'Northing' and has four tick marks.

B

Diagram B shows three separate coordinate axes. The first axis is labeled 'Zone' and has two tick marks. The second axis is labeled 'Easting' and has four tick marks. The third axis is labeled 'Northing' and has four tick marks. Each axis is represented by a horizontal line with vertical tick marks extending upwards.

c

D

[illegible]

F 

G

H | | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian
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organization Private Consultant **date** 7/18/90

street & number P. O. Box 5 **telephone** 301-651-1094

city or town	Westover	state	MD	21871
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

WO-71
TIMMONS MANSION
East Market Street (site)
Snow Hill, Maryland
Chain of title

WCL 1236/27 Mary Thomas Lewis

to

10/7/1986 State of Maryland

354/138 Janice Bauman
Clyde W. Brown

to

6/16/1972 William Thomas Lewis
Mary Thomas Lewis
and the said William Thomas Lewis conveyed
his interest in the property to Mary
Thomas Lewis 12/19/1979 695/270

FWH 301/96 James Richard Baumann
Janice Baumann

to

2/18/1971 Janice Baumann
Clyde W. Brown

FWH 262/165 James F. McCabe, executor of the estate
of Viola H. Burroughs

to

9/3/1969 James Richard Baumann
Janice Baumann

Whereas Viola H. Burroughs died August 29,
1968 siezed and possessed of land which was
conveyed unto Viola H. Burroughs as Viola
Holmes Burroughs and James S. Burroughs-
the said James S. Burroughs having
subsequently died on August 31, 1961

WO-71
TIMMONS MANSION
East Market Street
Snow Hill, Maryland
Chain of title (continued)

Page 2

JEB 10/65

Lolita R. Smith, unmarried

to

9/20/1941

Viola Holmes Burroughs

BB 32/356

Annie B. Shockley, widow

to

9/17/1937

James S. Burroughs

formerly constituting the residence
property of Charles L. Shockley, now
deceased...the property hereby conveyed
having been devised to said Annie B.
Shockley by last will and testament of
Charles L. Shockley deceased 12/7/1953
PJ 10/490

FHP 20/105

Samuel M. Zacharias
City of Philadelphia

to

1/2/1904

Charles L. Shockley

Whereon a certain Captain William E.
Timmons resided at the time of his death

FHP 18/209

John J. Collins, Priscilla S. Collins
Thomas H. Collins, and Mollie E. Collins,
Mollie L. White, John W. White, Oliver
D. Collins, Sue M. Collins

to

1/26/1903

Samuel M. Zacharias

\$2125.00 all that house and lot lying
and being on the north side of Market St.

WO-71
TIMMONS MANSION
East Market Street
Snow Hill, Maryland
Chain of title (continued)

Page 3

Orphans Court Will of William E. Timmons

to

Martha C. Timmons

JAP 1/10

John F. Purnell
Eliza Purnell

to

9/4/1856

William E. Timmons
\$4,100.00 "Snow Hill Confirmation"

EDM 4/490

Denard Williams, trustee to sell real
estate whereof a certain Edward H. Bowen
died siezed

to

5/7/1852

John F. Purnell
\$3,100.00 Decree of Circuit Court
5/14/1850 Real estate of Edward H.
Bowen deceased-adjoining town of Snow
Hill called Snow Hill Confirmation

EDM 1/236

Samuel D. Harper

to

1/11/1848

Edward H. Bowen
\$2,700.00 "Snow Hill Confirmation"

WO-71
TIMMONS MANSION
East Market Street
Chain of title

Page 4

GMH 8/430

Thomas A. Spence
Eleanora N. Spence

to

10/27/1845

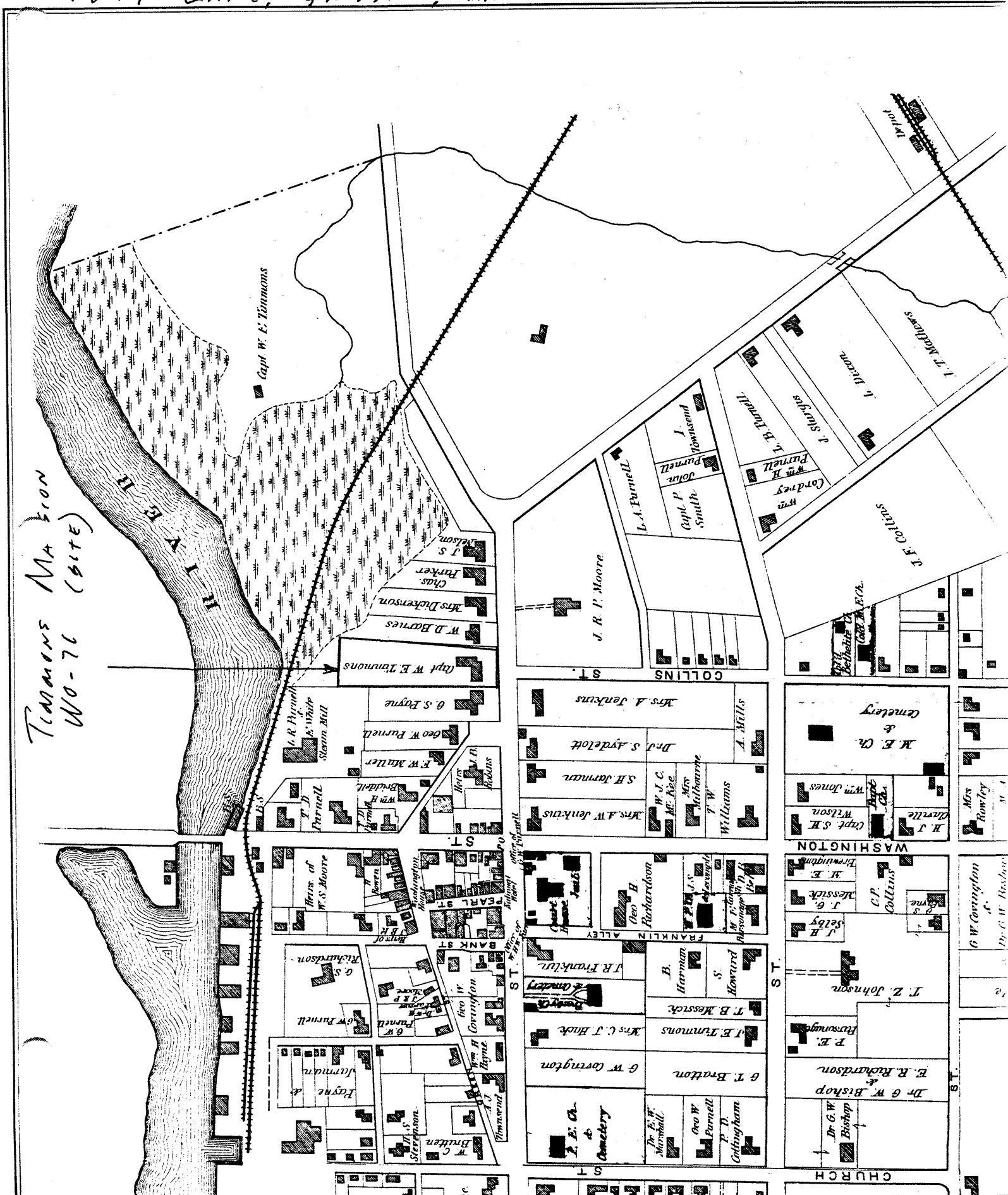
Sam~~uel~~ D. Harper

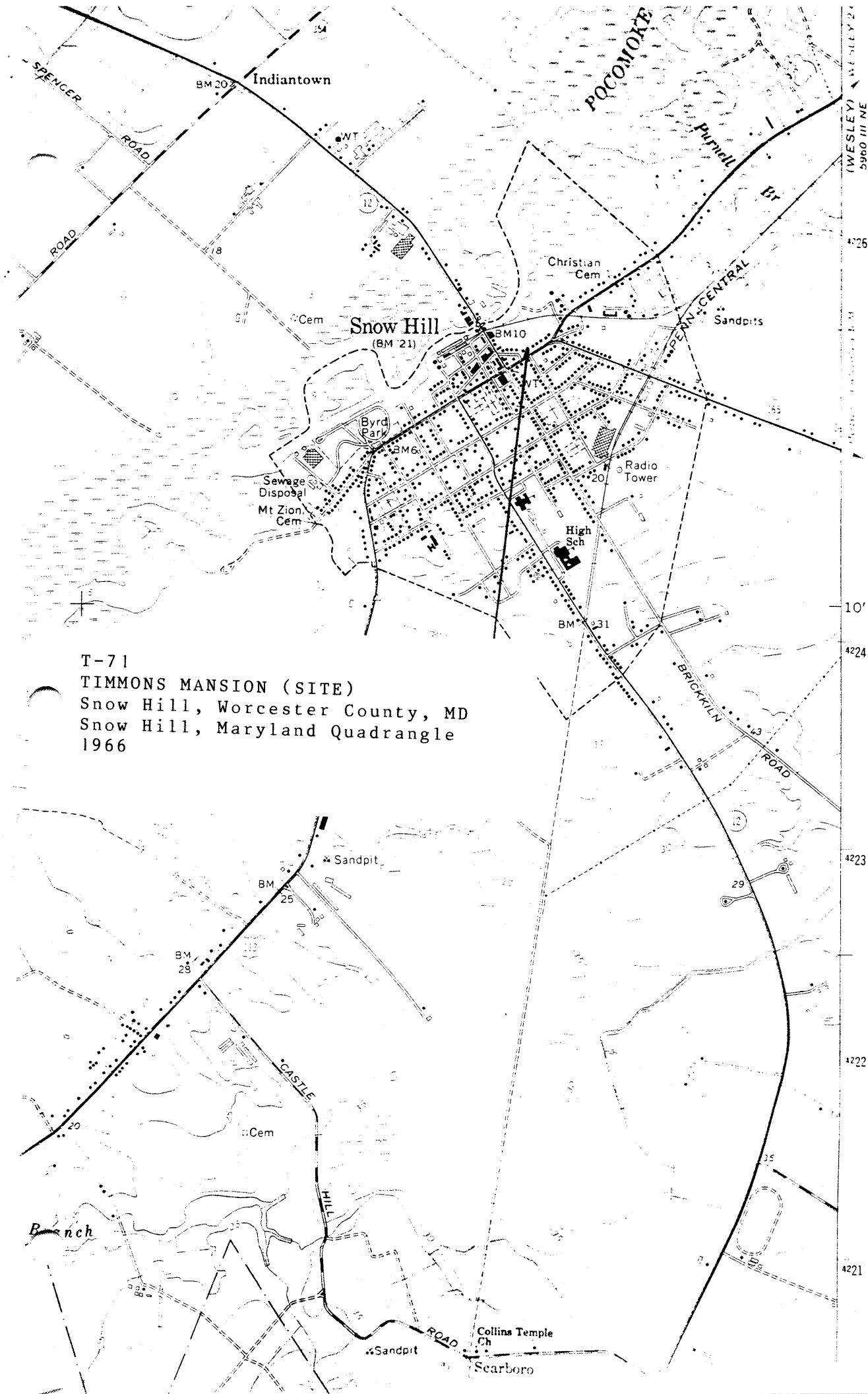
\$2,500 "Snow Hill Confirmation"

*long description of adjacent properties

1977 LAKE, GRIFAN, AND STEVENSON ATLAS WO-71

TIMMONS MAISON
WO-71 (SITE)





T-71

TIMMONS MANSION (SITE)

Snow Hill, Worcester County, MD

Snow Hill, Maryland Quadrangle

1966